



Parental Consent

Frequently Asked Questions

Since 1992, Pennsylvania has participated in the School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP), a federal program that assists local education agencies (LEAs) across the Commonwealth by providing partial reimbursement for medically necessary health-related services as defined in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). This reimbursement assists LEAs in meeting the increased costs of providing special education services.

IDEA regulations that became effective Oct. 13, 2006, require LEAs to obtain written parental consent prior to billing Medical Assistance (MA). Based on a recent survey to determine the impact this regulation has had on LEAs, Leader Services has compiled the following list of parents' most frequently asked questions regarding the parental consent requirement.

1. If I give consent for the school to bill MA, will it affect the services my child receives outside of school?

No, MA will continue to pay for medically necessary health-related services your child receives outside of school.

2. Will allowing the school to bill affect other benefits my child or family receives, such as cash assistance?

No, allowing the school to bill will not affect a child's or family's MA services, funds, or limits in any way.

3. If I consent, who else will see my child's information?

In order to bill, the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare (DPW) requires that a medical practitioner review your child's IEP to determine that the services are medically necessary.

4. Am I required to give my child's Social Security Number?

No, your child's Social Security Number is not required to bill MA.

5. I signed this form at the last IEP meeting. Why am I being asked to sign it again?

Regulations require LEAs to obtain parental consent every year, or each time your child's medically necessary health-related IEP services increase or new services are added.

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6. If I do not consent, will my child continue to receive IEP services?

Yes. Whether or not you consent, your child will continue to receive all services as defined in his/her IEP. Your refusal will not have any negative impact on your child's services. However, we hope that you give consent since these funds are important in helping LEAs pay for many special education services.

7. Will my child benefit from the funds the school receives?

PDE has strict guidelines that require the reimbursement only be spent within the special education program. Because your child is in the special education program, he/she will benefit from this reimbursement.

8. How can schools use these funds?

LEAs can use the funds for many expenses within the special education program. These include, but are not limited to: hiring and training staff, purchasing equipment and materials such as computers, textbooks, and assistive technology devices.

9. Will I have to pay a monthly premium if my child receives MA? I recall receiving a notice to that effect.

No, the state has chosen not to charge a premium for children who qualify for MA under PH Category 95 (disability category).

10. Will I have to make any co-payments?

No, there are no co-payments for school-based services.

11. How does the school know my child is eligible for MA?

Just like any physician or clinic, LEAs must enroll with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) as an MA provider. This allows the LEA to access MA eligibility information. LEAs are required by law to keep personal information confidential.

12. If I consent, but later change my mind, does the school have to return the MA funds it received on behalf of my child?

No, the LEA is not required to return the MA funds it received after you gave consent. However, the LEA will stop billing MA as of the date you revoke consent.

13. Can I request a copy of my child's MA billing records?

Yes, upon request, a billing history report will be provided.

14. What are the MA-eligible school-based services?

Assistive Devices	Personal Care Assistant	Social Work
Audiology	Physical Therapy	Speech
IEP Development	Physician	Hearing Impaired
Nursing (RN and LPN)	Psychiatry	Special Transportation
Occupational Therapy	Psychology	Vision (limited)
Orientation and Mobility		